

AUG 5 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel

THRU: Chairman, CIA Career Service Board *JBK*

SUBJECT: Authority to Award the Medal of Freedom

REFERENCES: Executive Order No. 10336 of 3 April 1952

1. The Medal of Freedom is a particularly appropriate award for persons associated with the Central Intelligence Agency. The award of this medal to deserving persons within the Agency would provide them with a fuller measure of recognition for their meritorious acts or services in the national interest, and would permit such recognition without endangering the security interests of the Agency.

2. Under the provisions of Paragraph 4 of Executive Order No. 10336 cited above, the Medal of Freedom may only be awarded by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary of the Air Force, or by such officers as they may respectively designate. Under the provisions of Paragraph 5 of this reference, the head of any department or agency of the United States not named therein (CIA is not named) may recommend to the Secretary of Defense the award of the Medal of Freedom, and the Secretary of Defense may make such awards.

3. In view of the sensitive nature of the activities of persons associated with CIA, and in order to utilize the most direct and effective procedures for honor awards within CIA, it is believed that the Agency should be independently able to award the Medal of Freedom by virtue of authority granted to or within the Agency. Either of the following alternatives would achieve this result:


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a. Appropriate action could be taken to request that Executive Order No. 10336 be amended to include the Director of Central Intelligence among those who are authorized to award the Medal of Freedom or that a new Executive Order be issued to accomplish this result.

b. Appropriate action could be taken to request the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of one of the three military services to designate a high ranking military officer detailed to CIA as an officer with authority to award the Medal of Freedom, as provided in Paragraph 4 of Executive Order No. 10336.

4. Your comments and opinions with respect to each of the proposals presented in the preceding paragraph are requested.

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CIA Honor Awards Board

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